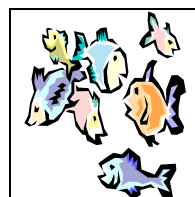


REELFOOT LAKE FISHING



Reelfoot Lake was formed by a series of earthquakes in 1811-1812. A large area of land sank and later filled with water. This was a heavily forested area and the remains of this forest are still found beneath the lake's waters.

The lake has approximately 13,000 acres of water and the average depth is only 5.2 feet. The deepest area is only 18' deep. Due to the shallow, fertile water and the abundance of natural cover, Reelfoot Lake is one of the world's greatest natural fish hatcheries. Approximately 54 species of fish can be found in the lake and there are thousands of individual fish living in the lake.

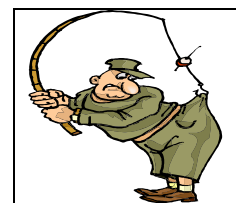


The primary game fish include several types of bream, white and black crappie, several species of catfish, large mouth and yellow bass. Many types of rough fish are also in the lake. The rough fish most often caught while fishing are carp, gar, bowfin, drum and shad.

Reelfoot Lake fishing varies on a seasonal basis, just like all other lakes. The bass usually start biting in March and continue until late fall. The best bass lures include spinner baits, plastic worms, spoons and top water lures. Large, live minnows are also good. Many large bass are caught each year and 5 pound bass are not uncommon.



Crappie usually start biting in early to mid-March in the deep water stumps. They move to shallow water in early April and the pre-spawn period is excellent. Crappie can be caught in deep-water stumps until July. Fall crappie fishing is good during September and October. Favorite crappie bait includes live minnows, jigs and plastic grubs.

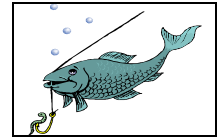


Bream fishing is usually good April through June and again in the fall. The bream in Reelfoot are usually large and large catches of bream are common. Favorite bream bait include worms, crickets and jigs.

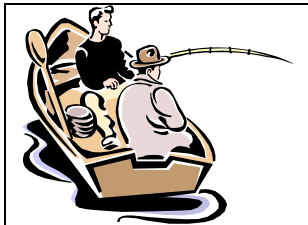
Catfishing is good from spring to fall and any catfish bait is good. Many large catfish are caught in Reelfoot Lake.



Yellow bass are found by the thousands in Reelfoot Lake. They are always hungry and strong fighters. They can be caught from early spring to late fall; they also bite well during the hot summer months. Favorite bait includes jigs and minnows.



Reelfoot Lake is an exciting place to fish; you never know what you are going to catch. It is common for over 100 fish to be caught per boat during one day.



Most fishermen do not use fiberglass boats because Reelfoot Lake is shallow and filled with stumps and logs. The most popular boats are the Reelfoot Lake Boat and the Jon Boat. Larger boats can be used, but only with extreme caution. Boats are available from the state park and most private resorts for a reasonable daily rate.

Reelfoot Lake is a unique natural area and many recreational opportunities are found here. For additional information contact: Reelfoot Lake State Park, Route 1, Box 2345, Tiptonville, Tennessee 38079 or call (731) 253-7756 OR 1-800-250-8617



THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF FISH YOU MAY HOOK WHILE FISHING ON REELFOOT LAKE:

PADDLE FISH	FLATHEAD CATFISH	SPOTTED SUNFISH
BOWFIN	CHANNEL CATFISH	BLUEGILL
LONG-NOSED GAR	YELLOW BULLHEAD	LONGEAR SUNFISH
SHORT-NOSED GAR	BROWN BULLHEAD	ORANGE-SPOTTED SUNFISH
ALLIGATOR GAR	BLACK BULLHEAD	PUMPKINSEED SUNFISH
BIGMOUTH BUFFALO	BLACK CRAPPIE	REDEAR SUNFISH
BLACK BUFFALO	WHITE CRAPPIE	WHITE BASS
SMALLMOUTH BUFFALO	LARGE-MOUTHED BASS	YELLOW BASS
COMMON CARP	WARMOUTH	FRESHWATER DRUM
CHAIN PICKEREL	GREEN SUNFISH	

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF OTHER FISH FOUND IN REELFOOT LAKE:

GOLDEYE	RIVER SHINER	BANTAM SUNFISH
THREADFIN SHAD	PUGNOSE MINNOW	INLAND SILVERSIDES
GIZZARD SHAD	FLATHEAD MINNOW	BROOK SILVERSIDE
SKIPJACK HERRING	CENTRAL MUDMINNOW	PIRATE PERCH
AMERICAN EEL	GRASS PICKEREL	BANDED PYGMY SUNFISH
LAKE CHUBSUCKER	TADPOLE MADTOM	FLIER
RIVER CARPSUCKER	MOSQUITO FISH	LEAST DARTER
CENTRAL STONEROLLER	BLACKSTRIPE TOPMINNOW	SLOUGH DARTER
BLACK-NOSED DACE	GOLDEN TOPMINNOW	TAIL-LIGHT SHINER
CREEK CHUB	COMMON TOPMINNOW	SWAMP DARTER
GOLDEN SHINER	STARHEAD TOPMINNOW	

